

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0013] with the following amended paragraph:

[0013] Fig. 8 is an exploded perspective view of the lock of ~~one embodiment~~ a second embodiment of the invention;

Please replace paragraph [0014] with the following amended paragraph:

[0014] Fig. 9 is a cutaway perspective view of the lock, in a locked position, of ~~one~~ the second embodiment of the invention;

Please replace paragraph [0015] with the following amended paragraph:

[0015] Fig. 10 is a cutaway perspective view of the lock, in an unlocked position, of ~~one~~ the second embodiment of the invention;

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016] Fig. 11 is a cutaway elevational view of the lock, in a locked position, of ~~one~~ the second embodiment of the invention;

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] Fig. 12 is a cutaway elevational view of the lock, in an operating position, of ~~one~~ the second embodiment of the invention;

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] Fig. 13 is an elevational view of the hooking engagement mechanism, in a locked position, of ~~one~~ the second embodiment of the invention; and

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] Fig. 14 is an elevational view of the hooking engagement mechanism, in an unlocked position, of ~~one~~ the second embodiment of the invention.

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following amended paragraph:

[0025] The neck 144 has a rotational axis about which it rotates. The neck 144 also has six portions: a ball bearing section 148, a knob casing securing groove 150, a follower member portion 152, a control plate portion 154, a control plate securing groove 156 and a backstop portion 158. The end of the neck having the backstop portion 158 is the free end of the neck 144. The ball bearing section 148 is an annular ring containing two opposing recesses 160, with corresponding springs 162 and ball bearings 163 (together, a ball-spring combination) located therein. When the control knob assembly 104 is secured within casing 102, the ball bearing section 148 is within the casing aperture 120 of casing 102. When the control knob assembly 104 is rotated, the two sets of corresponding springs 162 and ball bearings 163 engage the inside of the casing aperture 120 of casing 102. When the ball bearings 163 reach the annular recessed areas 126, a larger force is required to move the control knob assembly 104 in either rotatable direction. Accordingly, the ball-spring combination allows for the positioning of the control ~~knob~~ knob assembly 104 into a specific predefined orientation such as an unlocked or a locked position.

Please replace paragraph [0028] with the following amended paragraph:

[0028] The follower member assembly 165 includes a follower member 172 and a hook 174. The follower member 172 further includes a follower member aperture 176, a pair of positioning recesses 178 and two springs 180. The follower member aperture 176 has a follower aperture surface 181 defining the shape thereof. A portion of the follower aperture surface 181 is designed to abut or receive a cam such that movement of the cam along the follower aperture surface 181 causes or drives the linear movement of the follower member assembly 165 with respect to the casing 102. The springs 180 in the positioning recesses 178, located on the top face of the follower member assembly opposite the hook 174, provide a downward force upon the follower member assembly 165 urging it towards an unlocked position. In the unlocked position the springs 180 are in a ~~compressed~~ decompressed state, and when in the locked position, are in a ~~decompressed~~ compressed state. The hook 174 has a bottom portion 182 and a lip 184. In the unlocked position the hook 174 rests below the bottom ridge 118 of the casing 102. In the locked position the hook 174, including lip 184 is located above the bottom ridge 118. In the locked position, the raised location of the lip 184 above the bottom ridge 118 prevents the disengagement of the securing appendage on the bottom of the gun case from the lock 100.

Please replace paragraph [0029] with the following amended paragraph:

[0029] The control plate 168 contains a control plate aperture 186, a control plate contact surface 187 and a cam 188 (boss). The control plate aperture 186 has a shape complementary to that of the control plate portion 154 of the neck 144, namely, the control plate aperture 186 is substantially circular with corresponding filled-in portions defined by opposing flat surfaces 190.

When the hooking engagement mechanism 106 is assembled about neck 144, the control plate aperture 186 is mated to the control plate portion 154 of the neck 144 such that the neck 144 and the control plate 168 are rotatably attached. Here, the control plate 168 is immovable with respect to neck 144, and vice versa. The cam 188 protrudes from the control plate contact surface 187 and has a cam surface 192. The cam ~~[[surface 192 does not form a circle with respect to the rotational axis of the neck 144 (and with respect to the rotational axis of cam 188)]]~~ is positioned on the control plate 168 such that rotation of the cam about the rotational axis of the neck 144 results in the ~~[[oscillation]]~~ movement of the cam surface ~~[[with respect to a]]~~ along a circle with fixed radius ~~[[about such rotation. In other words, the cam surface 192 does not form a perfect circle about the rotational axis of the neck 144. Therefore,]]~~ from the neck rotational axis, and causes a body in contact with the cam surface 192~~[[, as the cam surface 192 rotates,]]~~ to experience~~[[s]]~~ linear movement with respect to the rotational axis of the neck 144. Where, as here, the cam 188 is fixedly attached to the neck 144 at a location having a fixed radius from the neck 144, the rotational axis of the cam 188 and the neck 144 are one and the same.

Please replace paragraph [0046] with the following amended paragraph:

[0046] Second bushing or C-shaped clamp 170 rotates 90 degrees in the clockwise direction in response to the corresponding rotation of neck 144. Because control plate 168 also follows the same rotational displacement, the second bushing 170 remains in static contact with both the neck 144 and the control plate 168. Although the above describes the transitioning of lock 100 from ~~a locked~~ an unlocked to ~~an unlocked~~ a locked state, the same description is also applicable to the transitioning from ~~an unlocked~~ a locked to ~~a locked~~ an unlocked state when

viewed in reverse. That transitioning includes the counterclockwise movement of the control knob assembly 104 and the corresponding resulting movements of the affected lock 100 components.